

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The written description portion of the specification, the abstract of the disclosure, and claims 1-5 have been amended. Claim 6 was redundant and has been canceled, and new claims 7-12 have been added. Claims 1-5 and 7-12 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are independent. The objections and rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The specification has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.77(c), for consistency, and to correct any informalities. The abstract has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.72(b). The claims have been amended in response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, and still further to more fully comply with U.S. practice. Claims 7-12 have been added to further define the scope of Applicants' invention. Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Each of the grounds of rejection under § 112, first and second paragraphs, is believed to be overcome. Claim 1 has been amended to eliminate the "coordination" recitation by defining the structure of the drive system, i.e., "a drive system that drives

the drive wheels and the tool roller such that one tube section passes through at least one working station each time the tool roller completes a rotation and such that the drive wheels have less angular speed than the tool roller." Method claim 4 has been amended in a similar manner. With regard to the angular speed recitation, claim 2 has been amended in pertinent part to define a device in which "a ratio of the angular speed of the drive wheels to the angular speed of the tool roller is 2:3 so that loss of tension associated with elongation of the conveyor belt during operation is reduced."

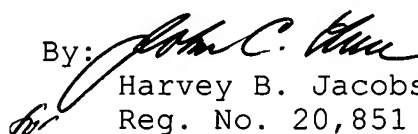
New claims 7-12 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention. New claims 7-12 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 8, 2007